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THE COMMON CAUSE
OF HUMANITY.
The Organ of the National Union of
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

NON-PARTY. ***Societies and Branches in the Union*** **602.** **LAW-ABIDING.**

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Registered as a Newspaper.

The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 52,000 men and women who have banded themselves together, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time being suspended their political activities, in order to put themselves and their Union at the service of those who are organising the relief of distress caused by the war. They desire to help in the most effective way, by work rather than doles; to preserve the life of the race for the future by special care of mothers and young children; and generally to illustrate in their own lives the truth that the Suffragists' demand is for duties rather than for rights, and their ideal is the service of humanity. WILL YOU JOIN?

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Notes and News.

Professional Women's Patriotic Service Fund.

We warmly commend to our readers the new Fund to be raised by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, of which we published an account in our issue of December. We can imagine no better use to which money can be put than this, which at once comes to the help of professional women by offering them employment, and to the help of the nation by offering it, when efficiency is so urgently needed, the expert services of competent professional women. These women do not wish for relief in the form of doles. They are as anxious as everyone else to serve their country at this time, but they cannot do so without a salary, as their livelihood depends on what they earn. In the meantime, many societies and patriotic relief organisations are calling out for voluntary workers, and the supply of competent voluntary workers able to give all the time that is needed is not adequate. Such organisations would be grateful for the services of a competent trained worker, but they have no means with which to pay her. The Professional Women's Patriotic Service Fund will perform the much needed task of bringing work and worker together. Money should be sent to the Secretary, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

Mr. Masterman, Liberal Candidate for Swansea.

Mr. C. F. G. Masterman has been nominated Liberal candidate for the Swansea District Division, by eighty votes to sixty-four. The proceedings at the meeting at which this decision was made, are described in *The Daily News* as being of "a lively character." Readers of THE COMMON CAUSE are aware that Mr. Masterman's record as a Suffragist is exceedingly unsatisfactory, and it is understood that he will be questioned on the subject by the N.U., though in accordance with the decision of the Union temporarily to suspend its political activities no active part will be taken in the ensuing election.

The Case of the Childless Widow.

We greatly hope that the Select Committee now sitting to consider the whole question of payments to soldiers' and sailors' dependents is at least taking evidence from women, though it is a Committee on which women may not serve. We are especially anxious that the case of the childless widow may not be treated entirely from the point of view of those who regard her as a helpless person, only to be helped by life-long "maintenance." We believe that most women who are still able-bodied and young enough to learn, would infinitely prefer to be put into a position to earn their own living, and we hope the Select Committee will favourably consider the possibility of such a solution.

Investigation by Women Officials.

Equally important is the question of administration. Approved Societies for the purposes of the Insurance Act have decided to put investigations concerning women into the hands of women, and there can be no doubt that this is an example to be followed. For two reasons—first, because the women whose cases have to be investigated would infinitely prefer it; and, secondly, because women officials would naturally be more competent in such matters—we earnestly press for this important point. Already the almost inconceivable tactlessness of the administration has needlessly hurt and embittered many whom it was proposed to benefit, and we are confident that any proposal which will lessen the likelihood of such soreness in the future, will be welcomed by those in authority. The employment of trained and paid women officials will, we believe, do this.

"In Case of Invasion."

A brief report is given in *The Times* of January 5th of the orders issued to the inhabitants of the East Riding of Yorkshire by Lord Nunburnholme, the Lord Lieutenant. These orders are described by *The Times* as "elaborate instructions." As far as women are concerned, the instructions are these: "Non-combatants and women and children when ordered to leave home must go by such roads and byways as are pointed out to them. They must not go by the main road . . . . for that must be left free for troops. If they meet troops on the road, they must leave the road immediately by getting into the adjoining fields."

The Women's Part.

We perfectly realise that—as implied in these concluding sentences—the safety of women is and must be second in importance to the free and unfettered action of the troops. Recent experience has shown us all that non-combatants cannot be protected, and must give up all expectation of being protected, if the chance of protecting them conflicts with military tactics or military strategy. They must not use roads which the troops are likely to need, and if even in the byways they should meet troops, they are immediately to get into the fields. Everyone

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who knows what war is will recognise that this is inevitable. What we ask is, that the authorities should face the fact also; abandon any idea of protecting non-combatants in invaded areas; and empower them, as far as possible, to protect themselves.

What Women Might Do.

We do not suggest for a moment that non-combatants should attempt to assume the dangerous *rôle* of unauthorised fighters. But we feel that the terrible suffering of the Belgian population should have taught us more sense than to invite a repetition of them here, by merely directing the women to pour out into the lanes and byways. We strongly urge that they should at once be asked to organise themselves; to appoint leaders; to make it known where women are to go, and whom they are to obey, if need arises; to ascertain at once in what houses there are children too small to walk, invalids, old people, or women expecting confinement; to arrange that some women shall be responsible for these, and shall remove them, if possible, to a place of safety, or stay with them till the end. The assumption that women must never be allowed to risk their lives in such service is preposterous in view of the fact that in any case they cannot, and will not be protected; it is ungenerous in view of the known willingness of women to make this sacrifice. The strongest and bravest of our men are abroad already, but the corresponding active, energetic, and devoted of our women are here. They would be proud to carry food and water to the men defending them, to help the sick and the aged, to use their known powers of organisation in order, at least, to lessen the horrors of war. We feel that we do our country a service in calling attention to this unused capacity for service. The Women's Volunteer Reserve has made a splendid beginning. Some work of the sort should be authorised and organised everywhere.

A Message from Germany.

The Socialist women of Germany have sent a touching message to their sister Socialists of Great Britain. Clara Zetkin writes with passionate grief of the horrors of war, alike in East Prussia, in Galicia, and in France and Belgium, and speaks of her determination "to bear (the Socialist) ideals inviolate through the storms of this time." We cannot but welcome a message from women of one belligerent country to those of another, at this terrible time; but we believe that women who hope "for wars to cease" must take heed lest they substitute for one kind of war not peace but another strife. Clara Zetkin speaks of a future "when men and women of the working class have resolved to bring to the defence of their own interests and the realisation of their aims, as much power, passion, and inspiration . . . as imperialism now demands for its own ends." Suffragists will always desire to stand for the oppressed against the oppressor, but we believe they will strive earnestly against a conception of society which instead of nation against nation sets class against class.

The Treatment of Madame Thoumaian.

"Favourable conditions," Madame Thoumaian says, were promised to the Armenians by Sir Edward Grey on December 15th, yet only a few days later Madame Thoumaian was herself charged and fined £20 or one month as an "alien enemy" travelling without a permit. Madame Thoumaian is herself Swiss, and had received a letter from a Member of Parliament stating that the Home Secretary had promised she should be put to no inconvenience. In 1893, when Madame Thoumaian's husband was charged in Turkey with being a revolutionary and a rebel, notwithstanding a report of his innocence by the British Consul of the town, it was through the influence of his wife that Lord Rosebery, then Foreign Secretary, interfered and obtained his release, and she is well known as a distinguished peace advocate. Madame Thoumaian, naturally, greatly resents this treatment of the Armenians, and many others will sympathise with her when she asks for "justice and redress."

This Week's "Common Cause."

We publish this week an article on Indian aspirations and ideals by Sir William Wedderburn, which is of special interest at a time when we are all deeply stirred by the response of India to the Empire's need. We also publish an interesting and constructive commentary on articles which have already appeared in our columns, by Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P. In order that readers may have the advantage of reading this article in close connection with the preceding ones, we are obliged to hold over articles by Lt.-Colonel Edward Gunter, on Conscription, National Service, and Universal Service, which will appear later.

Soldiers' Wives Vindicated.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has been conducting an inquiry into several questions which have arisen from the war. We have great pleasure in reproducing part of an article in their organ, *The Child's Guardian*, in which the result of their inquiry is made known on a point of special interest to our readers—that of the alleged increase of drinking among women.

"The reports of the Inspectors were most satisfactory, for although it was stated that in 26 Branches there was an increase in drinking, in 122 Branches there was no increase, and in many of these there was much less drinking. In 12 Branches there was an increase shortly after the war broke out, but the conditions have now improved.

"It is unfortunate that such sweeping statements and unreliable assertions were made by people who apparently had no reliable data to go upon. General conclusions appear to have been drawn from isolated instances. From the Society's point of view it can be said without the slightest hesitation that no greater slander has ever been circulated concerning the habits of any body of people than the assertion that soldiers' wives as a class were lacking in the spirit of self-restraint, or that they were given to neglecting their children. It is true that in the reports of police-court proceedings it was found that some mothers had spent their separation allowances in drink, and that children had in consequence been neglected. In every case that has been tested it was found that the habit of drinking had extended over a long period.

"In almost every Branch, Inspectors have been able to exert a beneficial influence over a large number of the people who are ordinarily given to drink. The sobering influence of the times, to which reference has already been made, has had its effect here. In scores of cases Inspectors report that women have been persuaded to pay off old debts, arrears of rent, and to provide clothing for their children. In a large number of cases it is said that the condition of children is much better now than ever before. In many Branches, acting on the advice of Inspectors, soldiers' wives have opened accounts in the Post Office Savings Bank.

"The returns contained in the earlier reports dealt mainly with conditions in large cities and towns. To put the whole question beyond any possible doubt a further inquiry was ordered, and Inspectors were told to communicate with the district correspondents in the smaller towns and villages, and to obtain reliable information as to what was taking place there. The result of this inquiry was as satisfactory as the other.

"All the reports on this subject have, *by request*, been supplied to the War Office, *and proposals have been submitted to the authorities* for providing for the children of soldiers whose mothers are known to be of drinking habits. Before war broke out it became necessary in some cases to apply separation allowances for the benefit of children, and this plan is being continued. Payment of the allowance is made to the Society; when it is necessary children are removed, and payment made for their maintenance to suitable people who are caring for them.

"If, instead of indulging in general denunciations, people who know of cases where children are suffering would report the facts to the Society, it would practically always be possible to give relief.

"A letter was received from a Captain in the Royal Field Artillery, mentioning the case of a man in his battalion who had returned from France wounded, and been recommended for the Victoria Cross. On taking a few days' leave he found his wife drinking and his children neglected. This so distressed the soldier that in his desperation he said it would have been better that he had been killed instead of wounded. An Inspector visited the case at once. The woman was warned, and benefited by the good advice given her. The children are now well cared for, and the man has gone back to his work in the Army, relieved of the awful anxiety as to what would happen to his little family, of whom he was so fond. In appreciation of what has been done the Captain who reported the case sent a donation to the Society's funds.

"Since inquiries were made by the Inspectors, much discussion has centred round the drink question, and many extravagant statements have been made. There is no reason to minimise the evils likely to befall children whose mothers are drunken. The Society knows too much of this terrible question to belittle its effects. At the same time there is reason to preserve some sense of proportion and to refrain from slandering soldiers' wives, who have enough anxiety at the moment. *Plain speech is necessary on this subject.* It is becoming far too

common to pass strictures on a whole class because of the misdeeds of a few. There is, as can be seen from the evidence adduced by the Society, no more reason to cast a slur on the reputation of soldiers' wives because some women are addicted to drink, than there would be to stigmatise the British as a cruel and callous nation because a small proportion of the people neglect or ill-treat their children."

India's Loyalty, and Indian Aspiration.

No one can doubt that if India had turned against us in the world crisis through which we are passing, the great fabric of the British Empire would have been strained, even to the breaking point. Indeed, the position would have been serious if the response from India had been doubtful, or half-hearted; if there had been hesitation on the part of the Indian Princes, who command the hereditary allegiance of the masses, or of the educated class, who control advanced public opinion. Happily there has been no hesitation either among the thinkers or the fighters; and India has shown "a splendid and unswerving loyalty," placing personal service and her vast resources at the disposal of the King-Emperor.

If we ask why the Princes and people of India are eager to stand by England in this time of storm and stress, we find that it is because they believe that—whatever its shortcomings may be—the British Empire stands, on the whole, for freedom, toleration, and progress. But it would be fatal to assume that India is satisfied with her political condition, and that, as regards reform, the time has come to rest and be thankful. The blighting influences of official distrust must be put away for ever; we must boldly carry to its logical conclusions the doctrine of trust in the people; and India must be welcomed to an equal partnership in a free Empire.

This is the only right—and the only safe—course to pursue; the only way to strengthen and perpetuate the existing good feeling. And the true note was struck by Mr. Charles Roberts when, speaking in the House of Commons on behalf of the Secretary of State, he said that "in the atmosphere of friendship and goodwill which unite England and India to-day, there is surely a bright hope for the future": "the common endeavour of these days will enable India to realise that she is occupying, and is destined to occupy, a place in our free Empire worthy alike of her ancient civilisation and thought, of the valour of her fighting races, and of the patriotism of her sons."

This forecast of a happy future indicates no fresh departure in British policy. The sentiments thus cordially declared towards India, are those which in modern times have animated the best leaders of public opinion in this country: statesmen such as Edmund Burke, John Bright, Professor Henry Fawcett, Lord Ripon, and Lord Morley. And on these same lines the British people, by successive Acts of Parliament, and by Royal Proclamation, have ordained a continuing policy of justice and sympathy, abolishing all race and class disabilities, and conferring on Indians full rights of citizenship. In conformity with those principles, enlightened Secretaries of State and Viceroys have extended to India a share in free institutions: higher education, with colleges and universities; liberty of the press, and of public meeting; and (by the Morley-Minto reforms) a certain instalment of self-government. All these progressive measures, and the policy which dictated them, have met with grateful acceptance throughout India by an intelligent and law-abiding people.

Looking to these favourable conditions, together with the *Pax Britannica* within our borders, and complete religious toleration secured to all, how are we to account for the vehement discontent of which we have heard so much in recent years? What were the causes which brought about this "unrest" in every province of India, with its sinister by-products of secret conspiracy and outrage? The answer is not far to seek. There is nothing wrong with the guiding principles of Parliament and the Crown; and when, in the Indian administration, there has been loyal fulfilment of statutory obligations and royal pledges, peace and contentment have reigned. There has been trouble only when these obligations and pledges have been disregarded, in the pursuit of military adventure abroad, with police repression at home.

The remedy is to be found in a vigorous enforcement of the fundamental principles of British rule. But it is here that the difficulty comes in, for the execution of these progressive measures is in the hands of officials, whose professional interests are opposed to reforms which tend to limit their authority, and reduce their emoluments. The fault is not with the individuals but with the system, which has created in favour of foreigners a monopoly of place and power, thus establishing them in direct antagonism to the aspirations of educated Indians, who are competitors for high office, and who naturally desire to share in managing the affairs of their own country. Thus we find this curious condition of affairs that, as regards policy, the Indian people are in complete accord with the British Government; but the permanent Civil Service intervenes between them as a non-conducting body, rendering nugatory the orders of the King's Ministers on the one hand, and on the other hand, in India, repressing as seditious all manifestations of popular feelings. As his name denotes, the public servant should be the servant of the public, not its master; but unfortunately, in India the permanent Civil Service has usurped the mastery, thus creating a mischievous *imperium in imperio*, and proving the truth of the saying that the official, like fire, is a good servant but a bad master.

As regards the comfort of the people in their daily life, the remedy must be sought in decentralisation, with the development of local self-government, and the employment of voluntary unpaid agency in the districts and villages. To secure the authority of Parliament and the Crown, the British system, which excludes permanent officials from the Cabinet, should be followed; and the Viceroy and the Provincial Governors should be provided with Executive Councillors from outside, with ripe experience in public affairs. In the India Council at Whitehall the Secretary of State is dependent for advice and information on retired members of the permanent service, and in order that he may be master of the situation, he should have on his Council a due proportion of Indians representing independent Indian public opinion.

While I write, the Indian National Congress is assembling at Madras for its annual session. Those members of the British public who desire to know what are the aspirations of educated India, will find them detailed in the resolutions which have been passed by the Congress from year to year since 1885; and they will see that these resolutions are one and all in strict accordance with the declared policy of the British Government. As regards the European crisis, we shall now learn the considered view held by India's unofficial Parliament. What that view will be, no one in India doubts. It will be voiced by the President, Mr. Bhupendranáth Básu, a trusted member for many years of the Viceroy's Legislative Council, whose pamphlet, recently published in London under the auspices of the Victoria League, explains, in the words of the title, "Why India is Heart and Soul with Great Britain."

What we ask is, that the British people, being now convinced of India's loyalty, will give a fair and kindly hearing to India's aspirations.

W. WEDDERBURN.

NEWS FROM ABROAD.

U.S.A.

An important piece of news comes from the United States. After months of pressure, the Rules Committee has given way and "reported" the Bristow-Mondell resolution (for nation-wide Women's Suffrage) to the House. This means that a vote in Congress on the Nation-wide Amendment is now imminent, and that for the first time in twenty years members of Congress will record their votes on the question of women's enfranchisement.

"Success in the United States House of Representatives," says the American *Women's Journal*, "will be the first big step in the short cut to equal suffrage." The vote of the Senate will be remembered as favourable, but only by one vote, too small a majority for practical purposes.

During the present year, the question of Women's Suffrage will come before the following States: Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania; and American Suffragists will now be preparing for these campaigns.

FRANCE.

La Française raises the question as to whether women should not help to rebuild destroyed towns and villages. A report on this subject has already been made to the Musée Social, and it is hoped that women will obtain their place on the Committees for examining plans of rebuilding. "Questions of domestic accommodation, hygiene, and adornment," says *La Française*, "will enter largely into these proposals, and it has been too long forgotten that these questions are of peculiar interest to women."

War Books.

The Diplomatic History of the War. (George Allen. 7s 6d.)
Liberty, a Statement of the British Case. (Hodder & Stoughton. 1s.)
How the War Began. (Hodder & Stoughton. 1s.)
The German Enigma. (J. M. Dent. 2s 6d.)
Pan Germanism. (Constable. 2s.)
The Kaiser's War. (George Allen. 2s.)
The War and Democracy. (Macmillan. 2s.)
Shall this War End German Militarism? (Union of Democratic Control. 1d.)

The causes and origins of the war form the subject matter of several more books received during the last month, and they show an instructive diversity. First and weightiest comes *The Diplomatic History of the War*, which makes a formidable volume, though the British White Paper is not reprinted in it, and it was published before the French Yellow Book. The compiler, Mr. M. P. Price, M.A., has his own critical view of the negotiations. His conclusion seems to be that the diplomacy of all the Powers concerned showed about equal bankruptcy in the great emergency—rather a trite conclusion, you may say, but Mr. Price pronounces it after a labour of comparative and systematic study, which gives him some claim to attention. And, however we may disagree with it, his running criticisms of Sir Edward Grey's dealing is worth following, for it gives some idea of how it must appear to German eyes. Mr. Price concludes that all the responsible Foreign Ministers laboured for peace—with certain reservations; and although the British Minister worked hardest for peace, he did so with the greatest—an absolutely unlimited— reservation. From first to last he would not "show his hand"—would not reveal the conditions of Britain's neutrality. There is an obvious defence for this waiting attitude; but how must it appear to Germans? We occupied a pedestal of pretended impartiality, while really giving diplomatic countenance to one side only, and when all were embroiled, came down to decide the future of Europe. Apart from contentious criticism, however, Mr. Price's book reveals several facts not widely known in England, and important to those who are interested in the diplomatic case.

Mr. Arnold Bennett's breezy justification of the British intervention rests upon much less knowledge of its diplomacy, and shows far less respect for it. He says one could not "understand why the Continental Embassies and Foreign Offices should have troubled themselves to put up such an inane show, were one not acquainted—from revelations like the recently published *Memoirs of Crispi*—with the ignoble, infantile, cynical, and altogether rascally mentality which characterises those gaming saloons where the happiness of nations is at stake." In a later pronouncement Mr. Bennett has excluded Sir Edward Grey from this sweeping condemnation, so his loyalty to the official British case moults no feather from it. The rest of this little book consists of home truths to Pan-Germans, and the general effect is that of a battle cry without a wavering note in it. One can only wish that all manifestoes were as brief and lucid.

How the War Began, by W. L. Courtney and J. M. Kennedy, is one of *The Daily Telegraph* War Books, and follows exactly the lines of the Government case, with many complete documents. The original matter it contains is violent and not very distinguished in tone.

A translation of a French book called *The German Enigma*, by M. Georges Bourdon, is well worth reading, for the author travelled in Germany less than two years ago for the purpose of sounding representative men as to the nature and future of Franco-German relations, and his interviews with statesmen, professors, journalists, and militarists are recorded in a way that carries conviction. They are as valuable as his own typically French and pacific point of view. Frankness as to their national hopes and fears is a recognised German quality, and these men discussed everything even Alsace-Lorraine, quite freely. Two things strike one very forcibly throughout these interviews. Even the most Francophobe German threw up his hands in horror when M. Bourdon spoke of the possibility of war: and, with hardly an exception, they disliked England. This book is written in a very human and conciliatory spirit, and concludes with a most eloquent plea for the self-government of Alsace and Lorraine within the German Federation—a plan which might ultimately have healed the old wound.

Professor Roland G. Usher's book on *Pan-Germanism* is decidedly a professional production, dealing almost entirely with ideals and speculations. This author has no love for the Pan-Germans, nor enthusiasm for war; but, more neutral than most Americans, he can see no moral superiority in the Triple Entente over the Triple Alliance; and he considers that the nations of the Entente are establishing Empires by means which have no ethical advantage over war. He is wrong in this, but he puts the point well, and we might all consider it with advantage.

The Kaiser's War, by Mr. Austin Harrison, is chiefly a sort of journalistic "showing up" of Germany and the Germans. I say "journalistic," because it deserves no very careful reading. Mr. Harrison has lived in Germany, and knows German life well, no doubt; but one doubts the pertinence of these descriptions of German society scandals, and though none of us cares how hard Mr. Harrison "gives it" to the Kaiser, his accurately numbered list of that monarch's illusions about the war is not as good as Mr. Haselden's gibes in the *Mirror*, and has about equal historical value.

For serious people, who wish to get a grasp of the state of Europe preceding this war, and of the forces of nationalism, commercialism, and finance which developed in the long period of armed peace, there is no better handbook than *The War and Democracy*, a symposium dedicated to the Workers' Educational Association, and contributed by four very able writers, Messrs. Seton-Watson, J. Dover-Wilson, Alfred E. Zimmern, and Arthur Greenwood. This is altogether an excellent book.

Mr. Norman Angell has a good pamphlet on German militarism, its cause and cure. That this phenomenon had its real roots in the "crushing of Germany," and is not to be killed by the same process that caused it, is true as regards the spirit of the thing. And there is more in it than that, as you must read the pamphlet to see.

P. A. M.

Books Received.

How to Speak French. An Active Service French and English Word Book. By F. R. M. Fursdon. (Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton & Kent. 4d. net.)
The Social Worker and Modern Charity. By William Fass and Julius West. (A. & C. Black. 2s. 6d. net.)
Electric Cooking, Heating, and Cleaning. By Maud Lancaster. (Constable. 3s. 6d. net.)
Froebel as a Pioneer in Modern Psychology. By E. R. Murray. (G. Philip.)
Sick-Room Cookery Simplified. By Mabel Baker. (Bell. 1s. 6d. net.)
Careers. A Guide to the Professions and Occupations of Educated Women and Girls. (Women's Employment Publishing Co. 1s. 6d.)
The Red Cross of Comfort. Compiled by May Byron. (Hodder & Stoughton. 3s. 6d.)
Paul's Message of To-Day. By J. B. Miller, D.D. (Hodder & Stoughton. 3s. 6d.)
Drift and Mastery. By Walter Lippmann. (Fisher Unwin. 5s.)
Hands of Healing. By Theodora Flower Mills. (Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton & Kent. 6s.)
My Own Story. By Emmeline Pankhurst. (Nash. 7s. 6d.)

Correspondence.

A large amount of correspondence is unavoidably held over. It is necessary to remind our readers that there is no editorial responsibility for opinions expressed in the correspondence columns.

REFORM OF PUBLIC-HOUSES.

Madam,—I have read with much interest the article on this subject in your issue of December 18th. The People's Refreshment House Association, which was founded by the Bishop of Chester in 1896, manages about 130 public-houses, inns, and canteens on the lines suggested, the resident manager receiving no profit on the sale of intoxicants, but getting a substantial profit on the sale of food and non-intoxicants. We are perfectly willing to serve the working man with reasonable refreshment of all kinds, so long as sobriety and good order are maintained. At all our houses, special attention is called to the sale of tea and coffee for the working man at a penny a cup, and, whilst some prefer the traditional beer, very many of the customers in our tap rooms are most glad to have the opportunity of a good cup of tea or coffee. As the writer of your article suggests, public-houses should be airy and comfortable, but the State does not encourage improvements of this kind under the present system of licence duty. For instance, if the assessment value of an inn is increased by adding a tea-room and one or two bedrooms, the State claims licence duty amounting to half the increased yearly value, thus in many cases taking away all the profit derived from the increased accommodation. The P.R.H.A., in common with the Public House Trusts, has frequently urged on the Government the injustice of the present system, but nothing has yet been done. The only fair method is to charge licence-duty on the basis of the yearly sale of intoxicants. At present the duty falls upon the whole premises, and thus the most profitable kind of house is that which consists of two or three bars, without any tea-room, tea-garden, letting bedrooms, or stabling.—Yours faithfully,

R. Cripps (Sec. People's Refreshment House Assoc.)

Madam,—While fully appreciating the humour of your cartoon, its caricatures of both men and women show (perhaps intentionally) that there is a serious side to this subject.

The question on your published poster: "Why not reform public houses?" has never been properly answered. The only sufficient answer would be to begin to reform at once. If it is necessary in the interests of men folk, it is equally necessary and extremely desirable for the sake of women, who to a great extent have no other place but the public-house for enjoying free and neighbourly intimacy and opportunities for social gossip and conversation.

If public-houses are not at present all that they should be, the natural and reasonable thing to do is to make them fit for their main purpose and free from stigma and reproach. In the towns and cities of France the café (which is their equivalent to our public-house) is not dedicated solely to the use of men. Shopkeepers, clerks, artisans, and indeed men of every class, enjoy its attractions, accompanied by their wives, sisters, or mothers. The café is, in fact, freely used by both sexes, and probably this is the reason why we so seldom witness in it the drunkenness and disorder which too often render the public-house as unsuitable as it is unpopular among the better classes of Englishwomen. Earl's Court and the White City proved that cafés serve the same purpose here as in France. If further evidence be required, one need only enter the large popular cafés of the West End to be convinced that cafés are of direct assistance to the temperance cause.

They offer no temptation to excessive drinking, while enabling family parties to refresh and enjoy themselves together without fear of scandal or self-reproach. Public-house reform, therefore, is good for men and women. The former will not forget themselves in the presence of their women folk. The latter will be in a far better position than ever to exercise their influence in favour of moderation and self-respect, to the lasting benefit of both.—Yours faithfully,

Thos. Landers (Sec., The True Temperance Assoc.)

REASONS FOR OPPOSING THE SUMMONING OF A CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE IN 1915.

MADAM,—A good deal of prominence was given in THE COMMON CAUSE of January 1st to a vote of the Executive Committee of the N.U.W.S.S. on December 3rd, asking Mrs. Chapman Catt to summon a Congress of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance early in 1915. It is not mentioned that this request to Mrs. Catt was coupled with a suggestion that she might also invite the attendance of representatives of other women's international organisations, armed with powers to discuss the question of Peace and War.

I strongly dissent from both these proposals, and shall be glad if you will allow me the opportunity of stating some of my reasons for doing so.

At the present moment, when the greatest war ever known in history is raging, the national spirit in each of the countries involved is stimulated in the highest degree. Internationalism by comparison burns with a low and feeble flame. Calling together an International Congress of women at the present juncture, more especially if they are invited to discuss Peace and War, would almost certainly lead to an outburst of animosity and strife which might risk the very existence of our International Alliance.

I feel the strongest apprehension that such a meeting would not lead in the direction of closer co-operation and mutual understanding, but to an intensification of bitterness and strife between the nations. If space permitted, I could cite several instances in the past history of the Alliance which would show that this fear is based on experience.

Each nation engaged in this war believes its cause to be the cause of justice and freedom. Each believes its very existence to be at stake. Each has sacrificed and suffered much, and is prepared to sacrifice and suffer more. To bring the women of the belligerent countries together at such a crisis seems to me to be courting disaster. We run the risk of outbursts of uncontrollable nationalism as opposed to internationalism. Many of us remember a Peace Congress a few years ago, at which delegates with peace on their lips came to blows with their hands and umbrellas. Anything approaching this at a Congress of the I.W.S.A. would be a serious disaster, from which recovery would be difficult.

Let us always, both Nationalists and Internationalists, have faith and patience. If the fire of Internationalism burns low at present, let us guard it carefully, and tend and feed it as occasion offers. Do not let us expose it to the tempestuous blasts of Nationalism, which might go far to extinguish the tiny spark which still lives. Guarding the sacred fire was the task of women in the earliest dawn of history. Let it be ours now.

I feel so strongly against the proposal to hold an International Congress of Women at the present juncture that I should decline to attend it even if it were summoned by our honoured chief—Mrs. Chapman Catt.

MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

Since writing the above, I am informed that the French and Belgian Societies decline to attend a Congress of the I.W.S.A. this year.

WOMEN PATROLS.

MADAM,—A letter, on behalf of the Joint Committee working for the betterment of women in Ireland, on which some fourteen Societies are represented, was sent to the Under-Secretary for Ireland, the Right Hon. Sir Matthew Nathan, G.C.M.G., regarding the establishment of Women Patrols in Dublin. The following is an extract from his reply:—

"In reply to your letter on the subject of the establishment of Women Patrols in this city, I am directed to inform you that the Lord Lieutenant entirely approves of the proposed action of the Joint Committee on behalf of which you write. I am to suggest that a card for each patrol, countersigned by the Chairman of the Committee, should be sent to the Chief Commissioner of the Dublin Metropolitan Police for signature, and that a copy of the instructions which it is proposed to issue to the patrols should also be sent to him, so as to ensure any necessary co-operation of the police."

Women Patrols are already working in various places in England and Scotland, and it is earnestly hoped, now authority and the co-operation of the police has been granted to Irishwomen, that volunteers for the necessary work will be forthcoming. Any lady who is desirous of further information should write *at once* to Mrs. Haslam, 163, Rathgar Road. An organiser is coming to Dublin for a short time to train ladies taking up the work, and it is hoped that a large body of voluntary workers will be able to meet her, and benefit directly by her expert knowledge of this subject.

EDITH SANDERSON,
(Irishwomen's Suffrage and Local Government Association).

CAMPS AND PUBLIC-HOUSES.

MADAM,—May I suggest that troops should not, if possible, be stationed in the near neighbourhood of a public-house and that some prohibition should be put on the proprietor of the public-house as to the sale of drink to soldiers, should they be stationed in the neighbourhood of one. The treating which goes on, with the best intentions, to the ruin of the credit of the soldiers and to their disgrace, makes this suggestion of paramount importance.

I am unable to offer two country houses of my own to the Government for the simple reason that the public-house, which is less than a mile from these houses and which is not on my property, does such mischief by the sale of drink among my own servants and the inhabitants of this valley, that I dare not take the risk of a number of strange men in the neighbourhood.

I have been travelling about a good deal lately, and the number of drunken soldiers I have seen is truly lamentable.

C. H. CAMERON-HEAD, of Inverailort.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' WIVES.

MADAM,—Anyone who has had much to do with the arrangements for soldiers' and sailors' wives during this crisis must realise that if the women had had a representative organisation of their own, to which they might have gone for help, and with which the Government might deal both on matters of general importance and in details of personal difficulty, much suffering would certainly have been avoided and many mistakes would never have been made. Surely the time has come to secure the formation of such an organisation to represent the interests of the women who most of all are bearing the brunt of the anxiety and trial at this time of national crisis!

It is for the rank and file of the ordinary privates' wives to get together and form an association which shall be thoroughly democratic and representative of their views. This should be done in order that their demands may be made with influence and authority before the Select Committee reports.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

CLUBS FOR SOLDIERS AND THE WIVES OF SOLDIERS.

MADAM,—I am desirous of collecting all the information that can be obtained as to the various Clubs, Societies, Meetings, &c., that have been arranged since the commencement of the war for the entertainment and social welfare of our soldiers and for the wives of soldiers. As I am proposing to tabulate all the information received, and prepare a memorandum showing what has been done throughout the country in respect to this important social need, I trust that all your readers who have any information upon the subject will communicate with me.

I should like to have the fullest details possible as to the nature and constitution of the Club or Meeting, its method of control, its object and conditions of membership, and what has been its success up to now. Any information will be useful, but the fuller the details the better.

If your readers have not this information I shall be grateful if they will bring my request before the notice of those who possess the knowledge, so that my return may be representative of what is being done all over the country. Also, I should be glad to have information of any Clubs or Institutions existing before the war, that have been thrown open to, or converted for the use of the soldiers or their wives.

HUBERT BEAUMONT.

405, Produce Exchange, Manchester.

THE N.U. AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN.

MADAM,—I hope very much that the scheme of the N.U. for bringing professional women who are out of work in touch with public bodies who badly need their work will be adequately supported. The need of it is great. In Rochdale, as, presumably, everywhere else, all the "relief" work is being done "on the cheap." It is nobody's business to see that it is done properly. Teachers and other already fully employed people have been requisitioned; boys from the Secondary School have been helping with the clerical work, and little girls out of school have been called upon to wash up after the meals given to needy mothers. We have three centres open for the latter purpose (thanks to working class representatives on the Relief Committee), but to my certain knowledge this is not properly organised because all the work is voluntary and nobody is responsible for its being done properly. The sufferers are the poor and needy, of course, as they always are. For their sake, as well as for the sake of professional women who are out of work, I hope the N.U. scheme will prosper.

ADA NIELD CHEW.

AN APPEAL TO SUFFRAGISTS.

MADAM,—This small place, Fleet, has just been invaded by 1,000 men of the Royal Army Medical Corps, who are billeted on us. These men have been embodied over ten weeks, and beyond doing elementary foot drill, route marching, and improvised stretcher drill, are unable to make any progress with the real work of the corps, as they lack the necessary bandages for practice and instructional work. They are longing to handle bandages and fit themselves as speedily as possible for the work of mercy for which they enlisted. The officer in command tells me he would be only too glad to receive as many bandages as I can collect, and I aim at making a gift of 300 roller and 300 three-cornered bandages from *Suffragists only*, if the readers of THE COMMON CAUSE will help by sending me either money or unbleached calico 36 inches wide. Each yard makes two three-cornered bandages, and costs about 6d.

The destination of these bandages is not as romantic as those sent to an ambulance at the front, but the more skilled our men become here, and the more speedily they are properly trained, the more precious lives may be saved on the battlefields when this Company is sent out.

I appeal to those Suffragists who have some one near and dear to them serving at the front to send me at least 3d. each. My sisters and I have already bled Fleet for scores and scores of triangular and roller bandages for other companies encamped near us, who for months were without materials to practice with, and we received most grateful acknowledgments from the officers, but we simply cannot ask the same people again—as everybody is spending all they can afford, and more, on the needs of many regiments and ships, in which no less than 500 Fleet men are serving, and also on hospitality of all kinds to the thousands of K. of K.'s Army encamped almost at our doors.

This is to be a Suffrage gift. Make it worthy one of our great cause, dear fellow workers!

DOROTHY EDWARDS.

Fircroft, Fleet, Hants

THE PREVENTION OF WAR.

MADAM,—I cannot any longer restrain the gratitude which I feel to you for having begun a series of articles in THE COMMON CAUSE on the peace and war question. Most of us have, I suppose, made up our minds that we cannot stop the present war, and feel strongly that it is for the world's good that the Allies, and not the Germans, should win it. But women cannot, and must not be satisfied with this. If it is to take us our lifetime, and even that of our children, to learn how wars are to be prevented, that is all the more reason why we should set ourselves seriously to study the question at once. Self-education is our first duty, in order to attain fearless clear thinking, and surely there is not one of us who will shirk this first step in a war prevention campaign. I trust that leaders of thought who have come to any conclusions on the matter will flood the country with literature. It is not denunciations of war that we need, but practical reasoned proposals for its prevention. Let us not fear the reproach of anti-patriotism; it is the future only that is ours. In this matter women must lead, not follow, and we look to THE COMMON CAUSE, and know we shall not look in vain, for lists of books to guide our study, as well as for a continuance of your valuable articles. We want to hear all sides, and to form our own judgment.

EVELYN M. GUNTER.

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ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS *to be addressed to The Manager,* THE COMMON CAUSE, *2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and all* ADVERTISEMENTS *must reach the Office not later than first post on Tuesday. Advertisement Representative, S. R. Le Mare.*

NOTICE.—*This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by midday on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager,* THE COMMON CAUSE.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

To Prevent Unemployment.

It is one of the features of war time that the whole energy and thought of the Government is necessarily taken up with the business of carrying on the war. Emergency legislation, and emergency administration, become essential, and their inconveniences are endured with resignation by the people, because their necessity is admitted. Expedients which would arouse a storm of opposition as "Socialistic" at one end of the scale, or "autocratic" at the other, pass almost without criticism, and practically unopposed. We desire, now, to plead that such measures should be taken not only for the protection and regulation of finance, but also in the interests of industry.

At a recent meeting in London, Sir George Pragnell urged that if the same steps had been taken to avoid unemployment as had been taken to tide over the financial crisis, an enormous amount of distress might have been avoided. Unemployment, as he truly said, has been due not to lack of work, but to the dislocation of industry. Such industries as suffered from real shortage were largely relieved by recruiting as far as the men were concerned; while huge orders for army clothing and other necessaries, created by the war, might, with due care, have been placed in such a way as to give employment to the rest of the men and to the women. The work was there. It was only a question of spreading it over the right areas.

It is, of course, true that such a shifting of employment could not have been effected without difficulty. Human beings cannot be drafted off from one industry, to which they have been trained, to another for which they have no training at all, without loss. But we have to consider not an economic ideal, but a choice of several difficult plans. As things stood, we had a large number of women—many of them skilled workers in the cotton trade—working on half-time, or altogether unemployed; while others, mostly in the woollen industry, were working the most appalling hours, with factory legislation suspended, and overtime regulations gone by the board, in order to keep up with the enormous orders placed by the Government for army clothing. The economic result (to speak of that only) is a large number of workers starved into inefficiency by unemployment, and another large number destroyed by over-work. This is a problem whose disastrous results will outlast the war, for these women are the mothers of children.

The Government has done wonders with our railways and our finance. And these wonders have been done because the interests concerned were put into the hands of experts. We strongly urge the same treatment for unemployment. A committee of experts—not philanthropists or Government officials or retired army men, but experts in industrial organisation—should be appointed to deal with the whole matter. As a very large proportion of unemployment is among women, there should be women on the board; women representing employed as well as employers, and women from those who have already gained experience on the Queen's Work for Women Fund. As, however, most large businesses are in the hands of men, men with this experience should be there also; and men, again, from the ranks of labour. Such a committee would be competent to deal

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with the question of industrial dislocation with real knowledge of the obstacles and the possibilities. They would know how far—and how quickly—it is possible to draft workers from one industry to another, and which branch of a new industry would be most congenial to which workers. It is, for instance, notoriously easier to train a highly skilled worker to a new form of skill, than an unskilled to a skilled trade; but there are degrees even here. It would be easier to turn a cotton operative into a woollen worker—both accustomed to factory life and factory conditions—than either of them into a cook; just as it would probably be better to make a dressmaker into a milliner than either into a clerk. We take crude instances, but they serve to show the kind of knowledge our body of experts would require to deal with this matter with the least human and economic loss. They should also be able to decide how each worker was to be maintained during the period of training, for if we are to "cut our losses" it is better to spend money on the maintenance of workers for a short time, than to have their efficiency permanently lowered by unemployment or over-work.

The period of acute economic distress seems for the time to be passing. But both unemployment and overwork still exist and cause intense suffering to women, and through them to their children. Nor do we know at what moment the problem may become intensified, or how long war conditions will last. We plead, therefore, most earnestly that the Government should do for industry what it has done with such admirable effect for banking and for transport, and put the matter for the time being into the hands of experts.

Peace among Nations: How to Begin It.

Problems of War and Peace are discussed in THE COMMON CAUSE *in a series of articles by well-known writers. Contributors are left free to express their own opinions, as we believe it to be in the public interest that such questions should be freely discussed. The articles are all signed and must not be assumed to represent the official views of the N.U.W.S.S.*

In THE COMMON CAUSE for December 18th and 24th are two articles by my friends, Mr. Lowes Dickinson and Mr. J. A. Hobson, which illustrate very forcibly what is becoming, I think, the predominant trend of opinion among the friends of International Peace. Taking them together they amount to this: Disarmament is impossible until the peaceful nations have some assurance against attacks by the less peaceful: the hope of such assurance lies in more complete agreements among the nations for referring all disputes, arising among them, to the judgment of a Court of Arbitration, or the recommendation of a Court of Conciliation; but even such complete agreements cannot give complete assurance against attack, unless the nations agree to combine together against any one of their number which attacks its neighbour. In other words, we need a League of Peace and Mutual Protection among the nations.

So far I am in entire agreement, but it seems to me that both my friends have failed to grasp, or at least to express, the essential fact, that no such league can ever come into existence complete in its extent, or perfect in its form; and that if we are not to abandon ourselves to despair, we must look for a beginning which will spread and grow more perfect. Both the articles seem to imply that after this war all the Powers of Europe, with perhaps the United States, will be willing to act together for peace on a very thoroughly organised basis. Mr. Hobson, indeed, expressly says "No agreement to reduce armaments can possibly be effective unless the peace be such as to give rise to a Concert or Confederation of the Powers afterwards, in which Germany shall consent to take a part. A settlement which merely shifted the area of the *revanche* from France to Germany could do nothing to secure the peace of Europe." No one desires more earnestly than I that at the end of this war Germany and Austria, Russia, France and England, may all be willing to act cordially and faithfully together; but can we be at all sure that it will be so, and if it is not so—if the vanquished decide to stand out of the Concert and to await the opportunity of revenge—does it follow that no real step forward can be taken? I think not.

If I were living in a country with no settled government, where each man was a law to himself, and each had to prepare to support his own rights or interests by force, I should seek to form a league of peace and mutual protection with my neighbours; but I should not expect them all to be equally ready to join such a league, or to be equally faithful in carrying it out. I should seek the co-operation of as many strong men as would come in; and even if they were few, I should regard it as a great gain that I and those few had agreed to settle any differences among ourselves by peaceful means, and to stand together if any one of us were attacked. Similarly, in the present anarchical relations of the nations, each a law to itself and each prepared to defend its own interests by force, if we can get three or four strong nations to agree together, in the right spirit and the right way, we shall have made a great step forward. We shall have created a nucleus of international peace, around which the other civilised nations can gradually gather. It is for the formation of such a nucleus that I think we ought to work.

Let us suppose that, after the end of this war, three or four of the great nations really desiring peace, say, Great Britain and France, with the United States, or perhaps Russia, or Japan, or even Germany or Austria, were to form such a league. They would agree upon three things:—

(1) To settle by peaceful means—by negotiations, arbitration, or conciliation—all disputes arising among themselves;

(2) To protect any of their number attacked by some Power which was unwilling to submit its claims to peaceful settlement;

(3) At any time to admit to membership of the league, upon an equal footing, any civilised Power which was willing to join.

Such a league would evidently be very incomplete, comprising at first only three or four of the Great Powers of the world; but it would be a nucleus having a very great attractive power. It would from the first be too strong to be safely attacked. The smaller civilised States would, therefore, clearly find it their interest to join it, and so obtain a guarantee of their integrity and independence. Even those Great Powers not originally members, might be expected soon to recognise that their interests were best served by membership of the league; and such membership, as I have said, would always be open to them. As the league grew in this way, its tendency towards disarmament would manifest itself. At first the members might not dare to reduce, or even to limit, their armaments; but as they became more numerous and more confident in one another they would feel less necessity for arming: smaller armaments maintained by each member would suffice to keep up an adequate collective strength.

Mr. Hobson, in the words I have quoted, seems to imply that the choice is between a complete Concert including all the nations from the first, and, on the other hand, hostile alliances, of which one is seeking an opportunity for revenge upon the other. A return to such a hateful armed hostility of groups pursuing their own supposed interests may, indeed, be the outcome of this war; but I submit that, even in default of a complete Concert, it is not the only possible outcome. An incomplete group of Powers, not formed for the pursuit of selfish interests, but animated by a real desire for peace, and, therefore, always ready to welcome other Powers to membership, may be much more easily formed than a Concert complete from the first, and may afford much the most hopeful means of bringing such a complete and permanent Concert into being. It is important to remember that however perfect a plan for international peace may be, it is of no immediate value if the nations, constituted as they are, will not accept it; but even an imperfect plan has great value if some at least of the nations will accept, and if it offers some immediate practical benefits, with a reasonable hope of gradual advance towards something more complete.

ANEURIN WILLIAMS.

[*Next week: "A Nation in Arms," by Lt.-Colonel Edward Gunter.*]

CRIMINAL ASSAULTS ON CHILDREN.

A Committee has been formed for the Prevention of Criminal Assaults on Children, with the Bishop of Ely as President, and Mrs. Hutchinson (Aysthorpe, Cambridge) as Hon. Secretary. The increase of such assaults has been occupying the anxious attention of all who care for social reform, for some time, and we are glad indeed to know of the formation of this committee.

RECREATION ROOMS FOR GIRLS.

A few responses have been made to our appeal for funds to increase the number of recreation rooms in connection with the work of Women Patrols, but more money and more helpers are badly needed. Volunteers to teach Swedish drill, dancing, or singing, and to play accompaniments will be specially welcomed, and are asked to write to the office of THE COMMON CAUSE.

CAMP "COMMON CAUSE" FUND.

Thanks to the generous response of our readers, we are now able to supply all the camp recreation rooms with copies of THE COMMON CAUSE, and at present do not require any further help. As we have not been able to secure an exhaustive list, however, we should be very grateful if any readers who know of a room unsupplied, would let us have the address.

A SUFFRAGIST NURSE IN POLAND.—II.

In a second letter to the Hon. Secretary of the National Union of Trained Nurses, Miss Thurstan continues her account of her adventures in Poland :—

Warsaw, December 9th.

"In the last letter which I wrote to you from Lodz, I told you that we had orders to evacuate the hospital—that we had got all our wounded out, and that a Polish lady had invited all three of us, the Princess, Miss G., and myself, to her house for a bed and a bath. I enjoyed that bath more than any I have ever had ; we were all simply eaten up with insects !

"I was looking forward to a night in bed for a change, but we sat down to supper about 9.30, and had just begun, when the Prince arrived and said we must depart in five minutes, so we had to leave our supper and very quickly pack our things. We rushed to our hotel to find that our motor car had been taken for some wounded. We heard the Germans would be in in less than an hour. The cannons had stopped, but rifles were firing all the time. We waited till we could get a vehicle, and finally we got into a Red Cross waggon—the sort that holds three wounded men lying down—six of us with the Prince and a doctor and a dresser. Shells were coming at the rate of ten a minute—there were aeroplanes just over us dropping bombs every minute, but we got out without anyone being hurt, and reached Warsaw in safety."

Miss Thurstan adds that as the Unit "belongs to the Flying Column" they may be ordered anywhere.

SHAKESPEARE REPERTORY SEASON.

Mr. Henry Herbert and Mr. A. Brough Pearce are to be congratulated on their enterprise in arranging for a repertory season at the Coronet Theatre. This week sees a charming production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Next week "The Merry Wives of Windsor" will be played, and the following week Sheridan's "School for Scandal" will be given, except Wednesday and Saturday matinee and Saturday evening, when "The Merchant of Venice" will be performed. The price of tickets is from 6d. to 4s., and all seats can be booked in advance, except the gallery.

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N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

Serbian Unit at Malta.

The Serbian Unit of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital reached Malta on December 21st, just missing the boat which was to take them the second stage of their journey. In the hotel they occupied the rooms lately vacated by the staff of Lady Paget's Hospital. "It was a strange chance," writes Miss Douglas-Irvine, "which brought these British nurses and doctors to the island where once dwelt their great prototypes. In Malta they wandered in the streets that were built and inhabited by the Knights Hospitallers, the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. . . . They saw the Bull by which, eight hundred years ago, Pope Paschal allowed the mission of the Order of St. John to the sick and poor. They even examined the pestle and the jars of the ancient dispensary.

"A certain tradition of the peculiar greatness of the Knights lingers in the island. The local chief of the St. John's Ambulance is a personage. He wears a uniform, khaki in colour, and he does not forget its implication. He donned it to call on the Scottish Hospital Unit, and became their courteous and persistent guide to the curiosities of Malta. . . .

"The Scottish women, in their grey uniform with its tartan trimming, went unnoticed in the sunny, crowded, noisy streets. Malta is like London in that novelty cannot surprise it. It is a caravanserai where sea roads meet, and all manner of men pass through it. . . .

"For a few days the Hospital Unit in this light-hearted, chattering place, found a mood oddly incongruous with the aim of their expedition."

Nearing the Front.

On January 3rd came the welcome news that the Unit had reached Salonika, its destination being Kraguievatz, which appears to be a place between Nish and Belgrade at the end of a branch line. This is considerably further North, and therefore nearer the front than Uskub, which was the first destination mentioned. The nearer the front the better from the point of view of the members of our Unit !

A Third Unit.

From our Girton friends we hear that they have already raised over £1,000 towards the equipment of our third Unit. Now we are anxious for additional gifts towards its maintenance. There is no lack of offers of personal service since no less than 461 eager applicants are on our books ! The destination of the third Unit is still uncertain. Madame de la Panouse, President of the British branch of the Croix Rouge Française, to whom we are indebted for the splendid housing of our French Unit at the Abbaye de Royaumont, is anxious that we should send yet another Unit to France, and we are awaiting details from her of the locality she has fixed upon. Meantime, our band at the Abbaye has been reinforced by the arrival of two more orderlies and another cook. The country people in the neighbourhood of the Abbaye are greatly delighted by the advent of our Hospital there, and the first foreign contribution has been received by Dr. Ivens in the shape of a franc offered by "un ouvrier."

From Calais we hear what splendid work is being done by Dr. Alice Hutchison and her ten nurses. The British Red Cross have voted £2,000 for this Hospital, which is under the Belgian Dr. Depage.

Donations to the Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Forward, as per list to December 26th, 1914 ...	7,118	3	7
Paisley W.S.S. and friends, for fourth "Paisley" bed for six months, per hon. Treas., Miss M. A. Todd	25	0	0
Per Mrs. Stout, hon. Treas. St. Andrews W.S.S.: Mrs. Stout, £5, Mrs. McGaw, £1, Miss H. G. Wanack, 10s., Mrs. Stout, Senior, 5s., Miss Watson, 5s., "A week's abstinence from tobacco" 2s. 6d.	7	2	6
Per Miss Courtauld—			
Miss Mason, Dilston	1	0	0
Miss L. Creighton	1	0	0
Mrs. McDonnell	10	0	
Per Mrs. Laurie, hon. Sec., towards "Greenock" Bed: Robert Kerr, Esq., ...	10	0	0
Miss Courtauld	10	0	0
The Conservatist Unionist Women's Franchise Association, Liverpool, per Miss Emily Brassey	25	0	0
Towards Motor Fund, Mrs. Tracy Beale, per Miss Joan Retullack, hon. Sec. Exmouth W.S.S.	0	4	0
Collected by friends, per Miss Dalziel, Bridge of Weir, further donation ...	5	0	0
"Anon.," Edinburgh		5	0
From the Women Teachers of St. James' School, Glasgow, per Jas. Knight, Esq.... ...	1	0	0
Miss B. Lake	2	0	0
Miss Chorley, per Miss B. Lake		10	0
Bournemouth W.S.S., per Miss Janette Lyon, hon. Treas....	5	0	0
Proceeds of a Christmas Sale, by Ascot W.S.S., on behalf of the Scottish Women's Hospital, per Miss P. Forrester, hon. Treas.	41	13	3
Per Dr. Louise A. McIlroy, Glasgow: Thomas P. Hunter, Philadelphia	5	0	0
Miss Elspeth N. Frew, 10s., Miss L. M. Harvie, £2, Mrs. Chapell, 5s., Mrs. Glen, £1 1s., Mrs. Berry, 10s., Miss McIntosh, 2s. 6d., Miss Boyd, 5s., Mrs. Banks, 5s., (Sums 5s. and under towards Kitchen car)	4	18	6
Dr. Margaret McVail, towards Med. Wom. Assn. Bed ...	1	0	0
South-Western Federation, Further donation towards Devon and Cornwall Bed, per Miss Winifred Thomas, hon. Treas.	3	5	6

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

	£	s.	d.
R. Prys Owen, Esq.	10	10	0
Dr. Agnes M. Cowan, Manchuria, N. China	3	3	0
Proceeds of Sale of Work by a few Crieff Children and friends towards a "Crieff" Children's Bed in the Abbaye de Royaumont, France	25	0	0
Towards second donation of £25 for "Crieff" Bed for year, per Miss Kingham, hon. Treas.	15	0	0
Per Miss Morrison, hon. Treas. Glasgow W.S.S.: Col. Denny, further donation, £25, J. Hunter, Esq., £1, Miss Falconer, £10	36	0	0
Mrs. Dewhurst, Gonda, India	2	0	0
Per Miss G. W. Evans, hon. Treas. Barnes, Mortlake, and East Sheen Branch London W.S.S.: Miss Whitely, D.Sc., £1 1s., Mrs. Thomas, 5s., Miss F. E. Norris 5s., Miss Ramsay, 5s., small sums, £1 6s. 6d. ...	3	2	6
Miss W. B. Crisp		3	6
Per Mrs. Wilson, hon Treas. Edin. W.S.S., further donations: Mrs. Sampson, 2s. 6d., Mrs. Hugh Rose, 2s. 6d., Mrs. Ritchie, 10s., Mrs. Eddington, 4s., Miss I. R. M. Kemp, 10s., Mrs. Easterbrook, 2s. 6d., per Miss Mary Ross, £3 3s. 6d. ...	4	15	0
Total to January 2nd, 1915	£7,367	6	4

The Executive Committee urgently appeal for further donations to carry on the work of assisting to nurse the wounded of our Allies. Fully equipped Hospital Units of women surgeons, nurses, and orderlies, have been accepted and sent abroad under the Red Cross of the French and Servian Governments. A smaller Unit of women surgeons and nurses has been at Calais since November working under the Belgian Red Cross. *Donations of £50 name a Bed for a year; of £25 for six months.*

Motor ambulances are required immediately for the French and Belgian Hospitals.

Subscriptions, and gifts of all descriptions, comforts, clothing, gramophones, games, gratefully received and acknowledged by the Hon. Secretary, Dr. Elsie Inglis, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, or the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock, to whom cheques should be made payable, crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland."

How to Help the N.U.W.S.S. Hospital.

A very successful entertainment, organised by the W.S.S., was held in the Town Hall, at Castle Douglas, on December 10th, in aid of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital, and realised over £37. Tea, which was generously given by many of the townspeople, was daintily served by ladies of the local V.A.D., under Commandant Mrs. J. R. Rayne. In an interval of the excellent programme, Miss Craigie, one of the chief organisers of the Hospital, gave an eloquent account of its duties and organisation.

A PATRIOTIC TEA PARTY.

A very successful "patriotic tea party" and entertainment, organised by Mrs. Harley and members of the Shrewsbury W.S.S., was held on December 28th, in the School Speech Hall. The object of the gathering was to provide a pleasant evening for some of the soldiers billeted in Shrewsbury, and the wives and dependents of men who have gone to the front. Five hundred invitations were issued, and the hall was crowded. During tea an excellent string band performed, the musical arrangements being in the hands of Mrs. Webb, and an entertainment followed.

Mrs. Harley welcomed the guests in the name of the Suffrage Society and other helpers, and said that if only they could have got a larger building they would have invited every soldier in Shrewsbury that day. She would like to give a message to the soldiers there, and also a message to the women. She knew the men would pardon her giving them the message, when they knew she was the sister of their Commander-in-Chief, Sir John French—(loud applause—followed by the singing of "He's a jolly good fellow.") Yes, she knew they all loved him, and were going to do their best to bring victory to his arms and to their country's arms. (Loud applause.) They would be brave before the enemy, she knew that very well, but there was one thing she wanted to ask them, and that was that when they were in a foreign country they should remember that evening, and for the sake of the mothers that bore them, and for the sake of the women they loved so much, when they were victorious she hoped they would always be kind and considerate to the women of that foreign country. At the end of this war she wanted the women of this country to be able to say that their men did no act that was unchivalrous, but were always chivalrous to the fallen enemy. And now she had a message to the wives of the men who were fighting for their country. What had the women to do? They had to be more careful than ever of keeping their homes straight, and more careful than ever of their children, so that when the men came home they would find not only as good homes as they left, but better homes. She (Mrs. Harley) was a soldier's wife, so she had enormous sympathy with them, and knew how lonely and sad they were. She would like to remind them that several clubs had been opened in the town for soldiers' wives and relatives. She wanted the women to make use of these clubs for social intercourse, and hoped that those who met in them would be able to help and comfort each other.

"COMMON CAUSE" SELLING.

We wish to bring The Common Cause before a much larger public, in order that they may know how women are helping their country and how they can do their part. No better way can be found than street selling. Will you help?

If you cannot sell yourself please send us some money so that we may employ out of work women to sell the paper. Donations should be sent to the Manager, The Common Cause, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

Where to Sell.

A list of important London pitches is kept at the Shop, 50, Parliament Street, and at the "C.C." office, and we can do with any number of volunteers.

The Ideal House Shoe

6/6

PER PAIR

(Postage 4d.)

In all sizes and half-sizes and narrow, medium and hygienic shapes.

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Our business having progressed with such rapid strides, our Strand premises became too small for the comfort of our customers, and the conduct of our rapidly increasing Mail Order Department. Consequently, we have moved to **Commerce House, 72, Oxford Street, W.**, where we have secured more commodious accommodation in a more convenient and central position. Here we have good, spacious, and well-ventilated rooms on the **first floor**, with lift accommodation.

We hope our customers will take special notice of this change of address.

BENDUBLE HOUSE SHOES

are **British made** from the softest real Glace Kid and the most flexible solid **British** Leather, perfectly put together by a special process which renders them the most comfortable and silent shoes obtainable. It is impossible for them to squeak. Invaluable in the home, and a boon to shop assistants, nurses, &c. Made in narrow, medium, and hygienic shape toes, in all sizes and half-sizes. One price—**6/6** per pair (postage 4d., two pairs post free).

Every "COMMON CAUSE" reader should **call at our Showroom** or write for Book describing "Benduble" Specialities which also include Outdoor Boots and Shoes, Slippers, Overshoes, Gaiters, Stockings, Boot Trees, &c. It contains all you want to know about real footwear comfort.

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FREE. This dainty Book on comfortable and elegant Footwear. Write for it to-day—post free.

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"The highest grade of nutritive cocoa"

(THE MEDICAL MAGAZINE)

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss K. D. Courtney.
Miss C. E. Marshall (Parliamentary).
Miss Emily M. Leaf (Press).
Miss Evelyn Atkinson (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. Auerbach.

Secretary:
Miss Crookenden.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone Number—1960 Victoria.

A Personal Rights Committee.

The National Union has formed a special sub-committee for watching over the personal rights and liberties of women during the war. It will keep a close watch on all orders issued by the Home Office, Army Council, and other Government Departments, &c., affecting women, and will call attention to any which threaten their civic position. It will also consider the possibility of putting forward constructive proposals.

Kingsway Hall Meeting.

The Public Meeting to be held on February 5th, at 8 p.m., will be of a very special character. The Council of the Union has not met since the war broke out, and at its first meeting on February 4th and 5th, which we hope will be attended by over a thousand delegates of the Societies of the Union, very important decisions will be made with regard to the position and future activities of the Union, and on the evening of February 5th these decisions will be publicly announced.

All applications for tickets must be made to the Secretary, Headquarters of the Suffrage Active Service League, 50, Parliament Street, Whitehall.

Literature Department.

The first issue of the Diary did not include the full list of branches of the London Society. This omission was subsequently rectified, and the branches printed on an extra page, which will be supplied on application to the Literature Department to all who purchased copies of the Diary before December 10th.

Hon. Secretaries of Federations and Societies who have Diaries on sale or return, are asked to inform the Literature Department if they have any copies left.

An excellent recruiting leaflet for the Active Service Girls' Cadet Corps for girls of all classes, has been printed and may be obtained from the Literature Department (price 6d. per 100).

Future of our Workrooms.

The New Year brings a transformation to the Workrooms at Headquarters. The toy-making ended at Christmas, but from all sides have come testimonies to the delight which the toys have given to children. Box Cottage, the Ambulance and Dolly's Outfits have been greatly appreciated, and as there is a stock of these left it is still possible to buy them for birthday presents at 50, Parliament Street. As, however, toy-making is ended, there is no longer any demand for the reels and corks which our friends have so kindly collected and which have been most useful.

On New Year's Eve an entertainment was arranged by the staff for the women employed in the workrooms, a room being kindly lent at the Caxton Hall for this purpose.

Now that the Queen's workrooms have been started in many parts of London, it has seemed possible to close the workroom where the remaking of old clothes has been undertaken. The Menderies, which are practically self-supporting, are continued however, and are useful in employing a number of women. We are very anxious to extend this department. All orders will be most gratefully received. We hope to find more employment for the dressmakers by means of army work which we have been promised. For this we must hire machines, and it will be interesting to test the rates of pay offered, and prove, by experience, what money can really be earned by women on this work for our soldiers.

Active Service Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	3,328	15	6
Miss P. Lawrence	1	0	0
Miss S. Gatliff (Third instalment of £5)	2	0	0
Miss A. M. O'Hea	1	1	0
Miss K. Craven Hodson (Fourth monthly donation)	2	0	0
"A Friend B"	3	2	5
Miss J. D. Dalglish (Second donation)	3	0	0
Miss A. M. Taylor (Sweden)...		5	0
Mussoorie W.S.S.	5	0	0
Crewkerne W.S.S. (Motor Ambulance)	3	3	0
Mr. J. A. Morton (Fourth monthly donation)		5	0
Miss Florence Auerbach ...		10	0
At 50, Parliament-street—			
Miss Mason	1	0	0
Mr. A. J. Webbe (Scottish Women's Hospital)	10	0	0
Professional Women's Patriotic Service Fund—			
Miss Helen Ward	1	0	0
Mr and Mrs. Walford Common	10	0	0
The Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves	1	0	0
Mrs. Davidson	5	5	0
Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Swayne	2	0	0
Mrs. E. M. Ramsay	2	0	0
Dr. Edith E. Goodrich ...		10	0
Miss E. A. Carver	10	0	0
	£3,392	16	11

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1914	152	2	0
Received from December 21st, 1914, to January 4 h, 1915—			
Subscriptions.			
Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves ...		5	0
Miss Celia Wray	3	3	0
Miss Mary Clodd		10	0
Mrs. Allan Bright	1	1	0
Miss H. J. Hartle	2	0	0
Dr. Beatrice Webb	1	1	0
Miss E. C. Harvey	1	0	0
Miss L. Keat Scott		2	6
Mrs. Pearde Beaufort		1	0
Miss Florence Auerbach ...		10	0
Mrs. Alfred Illingworth ..	150	0	0
Mrs. Limond	1	1	0
Miss E. Q. Henriques	1	1	0
Miss E. M. L. Atkinson ...		5	0
Mrs. Lucy Hall		2	6
Mrs. Pennington	1	1	0
Mrs. H. B. Taylor	1	1	0
Affiliation Fees.			
Haddington W.S.S.		17	6
Altrincham W.S.S.	2	1	9
King's Sutton W.S.S.		15	6
Norwich W.S.S.	2	10	0
	£322	11	9

What Some of Our Societies are Doing.

Oxon Berks, and Bucks Federation.

Ascot.—A Jumble Sale in aid of the Society's Funds took place on October 28th and realised over £13. The Society sent more than 200 garments to the Q.M.N.G., and received a warm letter of thanks from the Secretary.

A meeting was held on December 7th, at which Mrs. Robie Uniacke presided, and Mrs. Rackham spoke upon Women's Work in War Time. At the end of her speech Mrs. Rackham appealed to all women to preserve life in every way, so as to keep up the vital force of the country, and to both men and women to join together in thinking how to make the outcome of the present war elevating and purifying to the nation, how to alleviate its horrors, and to prevent its repetition in the future.

Oxford.—The Society held its annual meeting on November 27th. Mrs. Nott-Bowen gave an excellent address on Women's Work and Unemployment in War Time. Members on the books, 512; an increase of 59 in the year. Annual income from all sources, £455 9s. 10d. Soon after the war broke out the office was lent to the Belgian Relief Committee, who are holding English classes there. The Society offered help to the Oxford Health and Housing Association, and, on their behalf, has arranged a course of lectures on Baby Welfare, and is hoping to establish a new weighing centre for babies. Many members are doing relief work in Oxford under various organisations, such as the Mayor's Committee, the S.S.F.A., and at a Kitchen and Restaurant which provides good dinners at cost price, to be eaten on the spot or carried away. A newly formed club for women, connected with soldiers and sailors, has been opened.

The Committee, to its great regret, has found it impossible to retain the services of its organiser, Miss Helge Gill, who is now in France as dresser with N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital.

Heywood Society.

On Tuesday, December 1st, a large audience, mainly of women, assembled in the Conservative Hall to hear Mrs. Hill's very eloquent address on "Maternity and Child Welfare." A resolution was passed unanimously urging the local authorities to adopt the "Notification of Births" Act, and appoint a Health visitor. Dr. Olive Claydon, Dr. Hitchon, and Dr. Geddes spoke in support of the resolution proposed by the Rev. J. P. Wilson, M.A.

THE NATIONAL UNION.

ACTIVE SERVICE FUND.

I enclose Cheque / Postal order for £ : s. d. for the Work organised by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies in relief of distress caused by the war.

Name _____
(Mrs., Miss, Esq., or other Title.)

Address _____

Cheques to be made payable to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Auerbach, crossed London County and Westminster Bank, and sent to the N.U.W.S.S., Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

[We regret that owing to pressure on our space we are obliged to continue reports from Societies in small print.]

Surrey, Sussex and Hants Federation.

EASTBOURNE.—Dr. J. Holland Rose lectured in the Eastbourne Town Hall on December 12th on "The Causes and Issues of the War," the Rev. H. von G. Scott in the chair, supported by the Chairman of the local Recruiting Committee, the Rev. W. N. Willis. The lecturer is Reader in Modern History at Cambridge University. The proceeds, £25 7s., were equally divided between the National Belgian Refugees' Fund, the local Belgian Refugees' Committee, and the local Suffrage Society's work for Belgian refugees.

The Suffrage Club is here used as a "Cercle Belge," English conversation classes being held every morning, and an "at home" given every alternate Saturday for Belgian and other members. One room is lent for the receiving and distributing of clothing. A working-party has been started, at which the Belgian honorary lady members make up material or knit up wool, which are ready provided, for the Red Cross Society or their fellow refugees.

Several members of the Suffrage Society, including the Hon. Secretary, are engaged in Red Cross nursing; others are serving on the Mayor's Relief Committee.

Women Patrols at Godalming.

French classes are in full swing at the camp near Godalming, organised by the Suffrage Society, and an Organiser is expected on January 11th to train the Women Patrols, who will look after the town and the main road to the camp. A meeting was held at Ockford House on December 12th, by invitation of the Lady Mayoress, to explain and discuss the Patrols' scheme, and to interest local residents and obtain volunteers. Miss Janes, of the N.U.W.W., made an excellent speech.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—The annual meeting of the Society was held recently under the presidency of Mrs. F. H. Thorpe. After the usual business had been transacted, the report of the War Time Workrooms must have seemed a novelty to those of the audience who had not heard of the Society's enterprise. Mrs. Gale Scott made a strong appeal for funds to continue this work of relief. Mrs. Sidney Ransom, in a most interesting address, sketched with graphic power from an Australian's view-point, the differing methods of the Suffrage Societies she has had the opportunity of studying lately in London. She regretted that the press gave so little prominence to the work of women, and hoped that a woman's daily paper would appear before long, and give to the country a more balanced record of the relative value of the deeds of her sons and daughters.

Hitchin, Stevenage and District W.S.S.

Our Society has held well together since the outbreak of war, and has been occupied in various activities. A Rummage Sale held at Knebworth in October, which realised about £16, formed the nucleus of a special fund for work which, not being strictly Suffrage work, could not be financed from ordinary funds. This fund was added to by generous contributions from members and others.

HITCHIN.—On November 30th, a meeting was held in the Co-operative Room, Hitchin, at which Mrs. Rackham spoke. Owing to the extremely bad weather, the audience was small, but most enthusiastic in their admiration of the account of all that had been done by our Union during the last few months. Mrs. Rackham had spoken in the afternoon at KNEBWORTH, at Miss Plowden's drawing-room meeting. Three new members resulted from her visit.

STEVENAGE.—At Stevenage we have formed a Maternity Centre, which, in spite of prophecies to the contrary, promises to be a great success, eleven babies having been weighed at each of our meetings so far. The entire expense has been borne by our Society, with the exception of the tea, which is given by Suffragists and Non-suffragists indiscriminately. It is hoped that this undertaking will be ultimately taken up by the local health authorities, and will earn the L.G.B. grant.

KNEBWORTH.—At Knebworth the work of housing Belgian refugees has been carried out with great success. One of our members offered the rent of a cottage for one year if the Society would undertake the arrangements connected with establishing a family there.

Mrs. Reed (one of our Committee) set to work at once, and in an incredibly short time obtained promises of sufficient money and furniture to provide for two families, who were promptly secured by our President, Lord Lytton, and installed with the smallest delay possible. This scheme is being worked by Suffragists and Non-suffragists, but the money all passes through our books, though as a separate account.

WELWYN.—At Welwyn, a Girls' Club which has recently been opened as a counter-attraction to the camp which has been stationed there, is receiving a grant from our funds. Mrs. Wathen (Chairman of Committee) has been holding French classes for the soldiers twice a week for some time. Other members have helped with the V.A.D.

CHELTENHAM.—We held our annual meeting on December 10th, with a fair attendance, when Miss Grace Hadow gave an interesting address on "The Work of the N.U. in War Time." Some copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold. The re-election of officers and committee took place, and the reports were presented, showing much work done, and only a very small deficit. At present the Society is holding sewing parties for the relief of local distress among women and children, and already some cases have been relieved. Careful inquiries are always made.

North-Western Federation.—Report.

BARROW.—Members are trying in conjunction with the Women's Co-operative Guild, to get a Maternity Centre established. 35s. 6d. has been collected for local Belgian relief. Miss Watson undertook arrangements for supplying the Border F Company with Christmas fare. An effort is being made to establish a "Saturday Rest and Refreshment Room," where soldiers' wives and children can come when visiting their men folk in camp.

CARLISLE.—Six members are on the committee of the Women's League, ten on the Town Committee (the President of the W.S.S. representing our Society), and five members on the Cumberland County Committee, two of them acting as joint Hon. Secs. for the same. Efforts to establish a Maternity Centre have failed, as it is not considered necessary by the authorities. Four or five Suffrage members assist in unofficial patrolling in the neighbourhood of camps. Nine members are on the local Belgian Relief Committee, one being joint Hon. Sec. for the same. Several members have given hospitality to Belgian refugees. Seventeen members are doing Red Cross work, including two commandants and two superintendent nurses.

The two Hon. Secs. of Carlisle W.S.S., Miss Bardsley and Mrs. Campbell, represent that Society on the Committee of a club for soldiers' and sailors' wives at the invitation of the B.W.T.A. The Hon. Sec. and Hon. Treasurer of the Union Jack Club, are also Suffragists.

CONISTON AND TORVER, though a very small Society, a good deal of work has been done. There are no local distress committees, but members are helping to support Belgian refugees at Coniston, have given 5s. to the Red Cross Society, and are working for local soldiers. Broughton and Torver are in a prohibited area, so that no refugees may be taken in, although a cottage had been prepared at Torver.

CARNFORTH Society has six members serving on local distress committees, has taken up maternity work, and given three guineas to the local Nursing and Sewing League. Carnforth being in a prohibited area, the members are contributing towards the upkeep of eighteen Belgians at Kendal. All members are working in various ways, and working hard.

Suffragists and Needlework.

Members of all our Societies are busy, like most other women, making garments of various kinds, so we shall in future make no mention of this side of Suffragists' activities in reports, unless some exceptionally big record is achieved, as constant repetition grows monotonous.

Forthcoming Meetings.

Correspondents are urged to write distinctly when sending particulars of meetings.

JANUARY 10.

Birmingham—Smethwick, Labour Church—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 6.30
Hyde Park—Near Reformers' Tree—Meeting 3.0

JANUARY 11.

Birmingham—Sparkhill, Women's Co-operative Guild—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 3.0
Bristol—40, Park Street—Working Party 3.5
Glasgow—Charing Cross Halls—Speakers, Miss Lumsden, LL.D., and Miss Knight 8.0

JANUARY 14.

Bristol—Cheltenham Road W.E.A.—Miss Tanner on "Policewomen"
Glasgow—202, Hope Street—Miss Alice Younger (Labour Exchange) on "Unemployment of Women" 4.0
Rochdale—Small Provident Hall—Mrs. Wareing on "Internationalism"—Chair, Miss Lydia Kemp 7.30

JANUARY 15.

Bristol—40, Park Street—Ambulance Demonstration 8.0

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5, Hampstead Rd. (nr. Maple's), W. & 127, Fenchurch St, E.C.
To give best prices for OLD GOLD and SILVER JEWELLERY, GOLD, SILVER, PLATINUM, DIAMONDS, PEARLS, EMERALDS, SILVERPLATE, ANTIQUES, &c., in any form, condition, or quantity. Licensed valuers and appraisers. Telephone, 2036 North.
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Gardens Designed and Laid Out. ADVISORY WORK.
SPECIALITY made of Pruning: the laying out of Herbaceous Borders, Rock & Wall Gardens, etc.
Further particulars apply:—28, WATERLOW COURT, HAMPSTEAD WAY, HENDON, N.W.

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Ten words, 9d. per insertion; every additional ten words, 6d. per insertion. All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Limited, 2, Robert-st., Adelphi, W.C.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE (N.U.W.S.S.) Clearing House for Voluntary Workers and Information Bureau, 58, Victoria-street, S.W. Donations for the Society's Women's Service Fund urgently needed by the Treasurer, Honble. Mrs. Spencer Graves.

POSITION WANTED.

ST. MARYLEBONE HEALTH SOCIETY.—Superintendent for Schools for Mothers; C.M.B. certificate, previous experience in Infant Welfare work; salary £100.—Apply Mrs. Wilson, 91, Harley-street.

POSITIONS WANTED.

MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY, 96, South Hill Park, Hampstead, wishes to recommend a young girl, 15, experienced in crèche work, as under nursemaid in private family; wages £14.

PROFESSIONAL WOMAN badly hit by the war seeks remunerative work (London) part week. Experienced, philanthropic, organising secretarial work.—Box 3,780, THE COMMON CAUSE.

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GARDEN CITY THEOSOPHICAL SCHOOL (co-educational) opens January 20th. Principal, Dr. Armstrong Smith. Few vacancies for boarders. Prospectus from Mrs. Ransom, Secretary, Letchworth.

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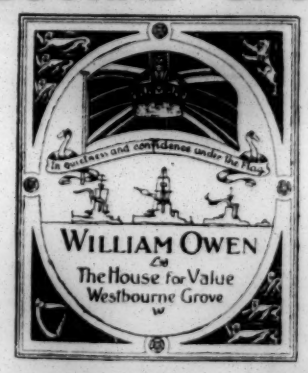

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